the 23rd February, 1951, issued by the Governor of Assam under the provisio to sub-paragraph (3) of the Paragraph 20 of the sixth schedule of the Constitution, as it stood immediately before the commencement of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971 (81 of 1971), or

(iv) in the Ladakh region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) and (d) This exemption is provided both in the interests of the Scheduled Tribes and also in the interest of the areas which the tribes inhabit. Government is moving towards a moderate tax regime and gradual phasing out of various exemptions and deductions existing in the Income-tax Act and no proposal for extending such exemption to tribals of the rest of the country is currently under consideration.

Restoration of Income Tax exemption in Gujarat

2640. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Association of Co-operative Banks in Gujarat, some Chambers of Commerce and Minister for Agriculture from Gujarat have represented to the Central Government to restore the Income Tax exemption under Section (80)P of the Income Tax Act, which has been withdrawn by the Central Government in the current year;

(b) whether Government have considered these representations; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir, the Government has received a representation from the Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat requesting for restoration of deduction under section 80P to Co-operative Banks. Representations have also been received from various co-operative banks and various Chambers of Commerce.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All such representations have been duly considered and the request to restore the benefit of deduction under section 80P has not been found to be acceptable.